

HB 1169 -- SOLAR GARDEN PROJECT ACT

SPONSOR: McNeil

This bill establishes the Solar Garden Project Act that allows a tax deduction for ownership of a solar garden under specified circumstances.

Beginning August 28, 2016, the Public Service Commission must establish rules to incentivize the construction and operation of solar garden pilot energy products by electric utilities regulated by the commission. The rules must define a solar garden pilot project as a facility that generates electricity by means of any solar photovoltaic device that is owned and financed at least in part by customer subscribers who must receive compensation for ownership interests in the form of rebates or credits to electricity costs at a particular location serviced by the utility operating the solar garden. The bill specifies the rules that the commission must enact relating to the pilot projects. The commission may require periodic reporting by regulated utilities on all accounting, financial, and health and safety information relevant to a project and may enact transparency requirements.

These provisions must not require the mandatory construction or operation of a solar garden pilot energy project, and no individual customer subscriber must be considered an electric utility by reason of a purchase of ownership interests in a solar garden.

The provisions of the bill regarding the tax deduction will expire December 31 six years after the effective date of bill.